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## We will remember

Veteran Ed Pickard of Haliburton stands and looks around as attendees of the Haliburton Legion Branch 129 applaud all veterans during the annual Remembrance Day dinner hosted at the legion on Nov. 4. See pages 8 through 11 for Remembrance Day features. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff



# Education assessments show increases among local students

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Trillium Lakelands students showed an increase in all areas of education assessments.

Wes Hahn discussed during the school board's regular meeting Oct. 24 the results from Education Quality and Accountabil-

ity (EQAO) assessments garnered by students at schools under the umbrella of the board.

Hahn, the Trillium Lakelands District School Board's director of education, said the assessments conducted last year showed an increase in all areas at or above the province.

Jay MacJanet, superintendent of learning responsible for Kindergarten to Grade

8 curriculum services, attributed the increases in Grades 3 and 6 reading, writing, and mathematics results, along with the above-provincial scores in elementary are due to the hard work of educators in ensuring students' preparation.

The results in Grades 3 and 6 have increased considerably since the previous year in all three areas: reading, writing, and mathematics. In Grade 3 writing,

TLDSB is eleven per cent higher than last year's results.

TLDSB is slightly below the provincial levels in the Grade 6 areas, but have made some considerable gains in comparison to results over last school year and years prior.

Bruce Reain, the board's chairperson,

see IMPROVEMENT page 2



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# HCFC seek large animal vet

BRITNEY PAGLIUCA

Staff Reporter

On Nov. 1, members of the Haliburton County Farmers Association (HCFA) met to discuss future plans, current projects and ongoing issues for farmers across the county.

The first topic of discussion was led by Mina Shleifenbaum, owner of The Wild Life Equestrian Facility, who gave updates on the prospect of a new large animal vet for the county.

Shleifenbaum has been in contact with a vet from Lindsay to discuss the logistics of accommodating the community's large animal vet needs. Presently, this vet has been servicing Haliburton County by emergency calls only, however the future goal is for them to visit the county once a week.

"We should know soon regarding their decision to take up this contract," Shleifenbaum said.

The lack of access to a large animal vet in the county has been an ongoing issue for two years now.

Carol Lee of Vinegar Hill Farm commented on why this challenge is so serious. "We are legally responsible for our animals and owe them proper care, but this becomes extremely difficult when we are unable to access sufficient tools, medication or medical aid," she said.

Shane Dykstra of Split Rock Heritage Homestead

advised that perhaps the best thing farmers can do for themselves in the absence of a large animal vet is to constantly check on your herd and reach out to other large animal farmers who hold knowledge about how to care for them and can lend support or advice.

"It's disappointing," Dykstra said, "because inaccessibility to a large animal vet has the potential to deter others from farming and owning large animals in the county."

The Haliburton County Farmer's Association remains hopeful that this issue will soon be resolved, however, as Godfrey Tyler of Waverly Brook Farm said, "we have been hopeful for two years now."

## HCFA in the Community

The HCFA has decided that they will be participating in this year's Santa Clause parade in Haliburton with a *Charlotte's Web* themed float.

HCFA members and the Haliburton Feed and Seed have also opted to make a donation to the Haliburton County Public Library to help fund programs that support children's literacy.

If any farmers or other locals are seeking more information about Haliburton County's Farmers Association, check out their Facebook page and keep an eye out for a new website that is underway.

An Annual General Meeting will be taking place on Jan. 18, 2024. All are welcome to attend.



Vinegar Hill's newest addition. Clifford is a two week old Canadienne/Red Devon bull calf. /BRITNEY PAGLIUCA Staff

# Improvement across the board

from page 1

said TLDSB is committed to continuing to advance elementary students in all curriculum areas, specifically with early interventions in reading and mathematics.

"The system is so proud of our students, teachers, support staff, and system leaders for their dedication to the learning taking place in our classrooms which has directly contributed to these results," Reain said.

Kim Williams, the superintendent of learning responsible for Grades 9 to 12 curriculum, presented to the board the secondary school results in Grade 9 de-streamed mathematics and the Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

Williams said secondary schools success was due to "providing students with direct instruction with deliberate practice."

Grade 9 de-streamed mathematics saw a five per cent increase over the previous year, and the Grade 10 OSSLT, a graduation requirement for all students, had an 84 per cent success rate – a six per cent increase from the previous school year.

"As we continue to work toward personal success for each student across our system, we are seeing that incor-

porating problem-solving tasks and experiences, and providing direct instruction with deliberate practice all contribute to the success of TLDSB students," Williams said.

Jennifer Johnston, the superintendent of learning responsible for Special Education, shared the results of

students who have an individual education plan (IEP). She said EQAO results illustrate how the practice of evidence-based instruction proved beneficial.

"Early intervention has been implemented in the classroom for Grade 3, 6, and OSSLT, which is believed to achieve greater success," Johnston said.



## Power Up for climate solutions

On Nov. 4, climate activists gathered in Sam Slick Park in Haliburton to protest the use of fossil fuels and promote green, renewable energy. The demonstration was hosted by Dr. Nell Thomas and Susan Hay and took place worldwide in partnership with 350.org, an international environmental organization addressing the climate crisis. This is the first time that a 350.org protest has been hosted in Haliburton County, however Thomas said, "calls for action are becoming more frequent as the climate crisis intensifies." The focus for this demonstration was on making the switch to renewable energy sources and to urge policy makers to rapidly stop emitting all greenhouse gases. "We have the technology," Thomas said. "We need the will." Speeches by organizers Hay and Thomas were concluded with a chant: "Power up. End fossil fuels fast, fair and forever." Those seeking more information on climate solutions can find so at [www.globalpowerup.org](http://www.globalpowerup.org) or 350.org. /BRITNEY PAGLIUCA Staff

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# Raising hope; HIFF's goal to inspire the community

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

Haliburton County is known for many things. The landscapes, the lakes, the... film festivals?

The Haliburton International Film Festival (HIFF), ran this past weekend, from Nov. 3 to 5 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavillion.

Featuring six full length films and two shorts - all previously featured at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in 2023 - organizer Tammy Rea believes that the festival brought some of the best of the best to the community.

"We wanted to choose films that weren't on Netflix or Amazon Prime," said Rea, "we were seeking films that were a little more off the beaten track."

But while the films were unique and varied, Rea noted that there was a consistent theme to them all: hope. "Coming out of COVID, everyone has been on a journey," she said, "and we wanted to leave the world with a little bit of hope."

The weekend kicked off with *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, about a man's journey to happiness, and finished with the *Old Oak*, about a small community accepting Syrian refugees.

"The festival starts with a single man's journey, and ends with a community journey," said Rea, noting that the selection of films is done with purpose and meaning.

"We were very aware of the bookends of the weekend," she said. "What's opening and what's closing are so important to a film festival."

Rea noted that the entirety of HIFF was a journey from start to finish, with the movies in a specific order for specific reasons.

That is why the majority of movie-goers this past weekend had purchased the full weekend pass. "We sold over 120 passes," said Rea, "and that's just perfect. That's how people can really get the full experience of the festival."

With the 120 passes sold, it was assumed that there would be some space in the theatre for drop-ins, but on opening night, the organizers found themselves turning people away at the door, with the theatre fully packed. "This is a good problem to have!" laughed Rea as she introduced the first film, and tried to find seating for all those who showed up.

The organizers also took the time between each show to discuss the film, and hosted a question and answer forum with the audience. That's why the full weekend pass was the way to go for those interested in discussing the selection, and



The annual Haliburton International Film Festival took place over the weekend at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, with screenings of award-winning international films including a short-film written and directed by Haliburton-native, Kate Campbell. Campbell's award-winning film *Boundless* was screened Sunday morning in front of a hometown crowd. The film was inspired by Campbell's grandmother, Betty Grepley, and her connection to the Second World War and the women Air Force pilots. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo

connecting with like-minded film buffs.

Rea said that the core of the festival was about "celebrating the journey", noting that as we emerge from those pandemic days, the need for understanding and appreciating other people's journeys is at an all time high.

"We all need to have an appreciation for the journey people are on," said Rea, "and we need to recognize that everyone is on a completely different journey."

Some of the topics outlined over the duration of the weekend included but were not limited to mental health, LGBTQA2S+, aging, food insecurity, homelessness, and immigration to name a few. Each film was designed to highlight either an individual or group journey, and leave the audience feeling wowed and inspired about the future.

To tap into that feeling in a productive way, Rea made a handout for each movie-goer to bring home, which offers ways they can channel their hope, and give back to the community. "These are big issues that we talked about in these films," she said, "they're big, but they still offer hope. So we wanted to highlight organizations you can support in the com-

munity."

Rea encouraged everyone to sign up for Those Other Movies newsletter, where she not only keeps fans up to date with the coming events and experiences, she

also sends out recommendations for films that folks can stream from home.

More information can be found at [www.thoseothermovies.com](http://www.thoseothermovies.com).

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# Local health boards look to merge for better service

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR District Health Unit) and Peterborough Public Health (PPH) boards of health are going to look into how their communities will be impacted by a merger.

In August 2023, the Ministry of Health announced plans to strengthen the public health sector by offering one-time funding, resources, and supports to local public health agencies that decide to voluntarily merge.

The province has indicated as part of one-time funding mergers would need to be implemented by Jan. 1, 2025.

In 2019, PPH and HKPR District Health Unit explored opportunities for shared service delivery in response to efforts by the provincial government to reduce the number of local public health agencies.

Completing a pre-assessment study marks the first step towards understanding how the current proposal would affect delivery of public health programming and emergency response capacity locally.

"Public health's primary reason for being is to improve the overall standard of health in the community being served," said David Marshall, the HKPR District Health Unit's board chairperson.

"Doing so goes a long way to relieve the tremendous strain currently being borne by our downstream health sector and those people working within it. If there is a way to strengthen our ability to improve these health standards, it is our responsibility to investigate it."

The provincial pre-assessment process

is anticipated to take place over several months, with a decision to follow early next year.

At the end of the pre-assessment, the PPH and HKPR District Health Unit boards of health will decide whether to proceed with a voluntary merger. Both PPH and HKPR District Health Units will continue to operate independently during the pre-assessment period.

"Our ultimate goal is to protect and promote health in the communities we serve while ensuring a strong voice in public health for municipalities and First Nations," said Kathryn Wilson, chairperson at Peterborough Public Health's board of directors.

"If a voluntary merger offers a chance to strengthen public health and resolve some of the long-standing capacity challenges facing the sector, then it is an opportunity worth exploring."

Efforts to beef up public health services are about to begin on another front other than board mergers.

Starting Jan. 1, the province will restore \$47 million in provincial annual base funding for public health units, which is the level previously provided under a provincial-municipal cost-share ratio with the province kicking in 75 per cent of the purse and municipalities contributing the remaining 25 per cent.

The province is also providing local public health units an annual one per cent funding increase over the next three years so they can more effectively plan ahead and prepare.

Health Minister Sylvia Jones said this will also allow time for the province to collaborate with municipalities on a

longer-term sustainable funding agreement that will not put any additional financial burden on municipalities.

"Building a stronger public health system, with more convenient and consistent access to public health services, is one more way our government is connecting people in Ontario to health care closer to home," Jones said.

"The pandemic showed that we need a stronger public health system and this increased funding will help to create a more connected public health system that will support Ontario communities for

years to come."

The province will also work with its partners to refine and clarify the roles of local public health units, to reduce overlap of services, and focus resources on improving people's access to programs and services close to home.

"One-time funding, resources and supports will be offered to local public health agencies that voluntarily merge to streamline and reinvest back into expanding programs and services," Jones said.



The Dragon King is the next show presented by Razzamataz on Nov. 12, featuring marionettes telling the ancient tale of adventure and family. After the performance, children are welcome to join a marionette workshop with the performers. /Photo submitted

## Razz heads underwater

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

Razzamataz is known in the county for high-quality, professional theatre designed for children. But somehow, it keeps getting better and better.

On Nov. 12, Razz will be presenting *The Dragon King* by the award-winning Tanglewood Marionettes at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. "While I am always excited for Razzamataz shows, I am incredibly excited to bring this show to Haliburton - it is a fantastic performance!" said Razz chair Nicole Stewart.

Designed for viewers aged three to 13, the show is an underwater, fantasy-based story based on Chinese folklore. It tells the tale of a grandmother who journeys to the bottom of the sea in search of the elu-

sive Dragon King.

The performance features custom marionettes from the traveling troupe, which takes the audience on a colourful, vibrant, and whimsical adventure through the sea. What's unique about this show is that the audience gets to watch the puppeteers in action during the show," said Stewart, "it makes for a literal, 'behind the scenes' theatre experience."

While the main show starts at 2 p.m., there will be an additional workshop hosted after the performance, kicking off at 3 p.m. onsite. Led by the performers from the group, the workshop will offer a hands-on session to keep the magic alive. "Children can experience first hand what it is like to work a professional-quality marionette," said Stewart.

Tickets are still available for the *Dragon King*, and can be purchased at the door on Nov. 12, or ahead of time at [www.razzamataz.ca](http://www.razzamataz.ca).



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# Big changes for Highlands Christmas Shindig

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

The Highlands Christmas Shindig is putting a little twist on the popular holiday fundraiser for Fuel for Warmth this year.

Adverse Conditions Highlands Soul Band, a new local music group, will be the sole entertainment for the evening.

Familiar characters Marple Syrup (Victoria Bingham) and Patsy Pine (Amy Brohm) are returning to host the holiday spectacular.

"This year is going to be completely different because it's going to be one act, and the audience is going to be encouraged to get up and dance," said Drew Allen, Highlands Christmas Shindig sponsorship director. "This is going to be an all-ages show."

Another big difference for the familiar favourite event is a change in location.

It will be held at Royal Canadian Legion branch 129 in Haliburton on Friday, Nov. 24 with the show beginning at 8:30 p.m.

"Yes, it's happening on the same night as the Santa Claus Parade. This way, everyone can get a whole evening of Christmas events," Allen said.

Last year, the stage saw 10 different acts.

This year, the stage will see 10 musicians performing together playing trumpet, trombone, saxophone, bass, guitar, drums, keyboard, and singing vocals.

"Adverse Conditions is modelled after Chicago soul bands. We got the name



Adverse Conditions will be taking the stage as this year's entertainment at the Highlands Christmas Shindig on Friday, Nov. 24. /Submitted

because we were born during the COVID pandemic, and it was hard for us to get anywhere to rehearse," said band member Craig Thompson.

They had their first gig earlier this year which proved to be a huge success.

"Everyone got up to dance at our sold out show," Thompson said. "There's a lot of energy in the room with us when we play."

Allen explained the Shindig's shift came with the changeover of the commit-

tee.

"Many people who had been on the committee for a number of years were ready to move on and just wanted to do something different," he said.

There are currently 13 members working hard behind the scenes.

"The Shindig has been very successful in the past in raising funds for Fuel For Warmth. Many of our sponsors have come back year after year," Allen said. "Last year, \$33,000 was raised for Fuel For Warmth. I'll be really happy if we can meet or exceed that."

Fuel For Warmth is a local not-for-profit organization that provides heat assistance to those in need in Haliburton County.

"Seeing it in person made a big impression on me. It raises a lot of money for Fuel for Warmth. I didn't realize how many families in Haliburton need help buy their propane, oil, or firewood to keep their homes warm," Allen said.

Tammy Rea from Sticks and Stones Productions will be livestreaming the event for those wishing to stay home.

Shindig goers can expect an array of goodies on the prize table such as golf packages, gift baskets, fine art, and more.

There will be two intermissions with the show wrapping up around 11 p.m.

Tickets go on sale at Up River Trading Co. in Haliburton and Minden on Friday, Nov. 10 and are \$30 each.

"I know that Fuel for Warmth has helped close to 1000 families every year, so I thought this was a really good cause. Keeping people warm in the winter is a really good cause," Allen said.

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir



## The ones who made it home

**R**EMEMBRANCE DAY is a time for us to honour those who served in the armed forces and lost their lives in the line of duty.

Physically, we wear a poppy and attend ceremonies.

We sing *O Canada* and *God Save the King* together.

Mentally, we remember the ones who never made it home.

Lately though, I've been thinking a lot about those who did make it home. The ones who made sacrifices that were traded with other sufferings.

Although veterans have been given the gift of their lives, the homefront isn't any less tumultuous for so many.

Poppies are worn as a symbol.

Red four-petaled flowers with black pistils were a common sight for soldiers against the muddy, mangled craters of the First World War's Western Front.

Where nothing else could grow, poppies survived among the destruction.

Canadian Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae wrote that poem we can likely all recite by heart.

*In Flanders' Fields the poppies blow,  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place ...*

And so we wear the hearty red flower on our coats in November to show that, like a poppy, departed armed forces members survive in hearts and minds.

In Canada though, those poppies are a symbol of something else too.

The Legion's annual Poppy Campaign is designed to support veterans and their families who may be struggling today.

The change you throw in the box when taking a poppy could be helping fund housing, pay for groceries, or assist in heating costs, to name only a few.

As of 2020, Canada has almost 630,000 veterans living on home soil. "It's estimated that about 32 per cent face significant difficulties transitioning from military service to civilian life - putting them at risk of mental illness, addictions, and homelessness," said the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness.

Over two per cent of the country's entire homeless population are veterans.

These are people that willingly devoted part of their lives for the safety of ours, remember.

Ten per cent of veterans who served in a war zone will experience post traumatic stress disorder.

That's not to be taken lightly.

And, poor mental health is one of the leading causes of homelessness.

The numbers are staggering and the correlation between the difficulties some veterans face is unmistakable.

A positive now is that we have the tools.

Unlike the 10,000 soldiers diagnosed

with shell shock after the First World War, we have a deep understanding of PTSD now and can properly treat those brave veterans.

Places like Dimensions are leading the way to provide a healing space and tools to work through trauma, right in our backyard.

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And \$17,000 being raised for the Poppy Campaign last year in Haliburton alone is something to be proud of.

So this year, when you see a volunteer with a box of poppies, consider donating a little extra change.

Wear the poppy for the ones we lost, and give what you can to the ones who made it home.



vivian collings

## Editorial



Front yard deer.

by Tammy Nash

## Restaurant Gazcilda

**W**E ALL love times when we feel looked after. That we matter and belong. When we are welcomed with open arms. I often contemplate how I can go into my day with a big open heart, with kindness and compassion to whoever I am going to be in contact with.

In whatever circumstances arise. I also take the time to really savour the moments when I receive kindness. I marinate in it. It happened many times on our recent adventure to the Azores, which are nine islands that sit out in the Atlantic Ocean and belong to Portugal.

Jim and I and a group of our friends spent a week on Sao Miguel, which is the largest of the islands, and a week on Terceira which is home to the oldest city of the Azores, Angra do Heroisimo.

Both islands offered great birding opportunities which is important to our group. I have many stories to tell from our adventures, but one that I have told many times since coming home involves a family owned restaurant in a small town called Mosteiros.

The restaurant is called Restaurant Gazcilda. Our group had been out on a morning adventure swimming in one of the natural hot springs located in the ocean.

When we arrived to go swimming it was raining, but we persevered because the weather moves through quickly. It was a short walk, in the pounding rain, to the hot spring.

There was a ladder down into the water and ropes that we could hold onto as the waves from the ocean came in and out. We had a lot of fun.

After we dried off and had a good coffee (there are little cafes everywhere, and the coffee is delicious) we headed into Mosteiros to find a place to eat lunch.

We had worked up an appetite and were grateful to find Restaurant Gazcilda. At first when we said we were a group of 10, the owner/greeter bartender didn't think he could fit us in, but then he did.

He and his staff quickly put together a table and welcomed us. Almost all of us ordered seafood. Swordfish, shrimp, octopus and seafood chowder.

Every meal always comes with delicious, really delicious, homemade bread and cheese from the islands. Our waitress was lovely, and her English was much better than our Portuguese. Throughout the meal the staff checked

in on us and made sure we were well cared for.

Towards the end, Jim got up to thank the owner and asked a few questions about the food we ate. The owner then brought out his dad who was the co-owner chef and Jim thanked them both and gave them a hug.

There was lots of laughter as they tried to communicate through sign language. And then as we went to pay our bill the owner came out with a round of homemade moonshine for all of us to share.

We laughed and toasted the good food and the owners toasted us. We felt so welcome and full of good food, and that is exactly how you should feel when you are on holiday. We always feel happy when we are welcomed with kindness and friendliness.

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# points of view

## On high ground

**I**THINK IT is common knowledge that the things we see in science fiction movies today often become reality in a few years. This is why two things are really troubling me this week.

The first is that it's been a while since they released the *Planet of the Apes* movies. The second is that I recently read a study in which researchers discovered that when chimps are about to encroach, or go to war, on other members of their kind, they almost always take the high ground first.

I don't want to be alarmist or anything but, in case you haven't noticed, we've got a lot of high ground around here. Worse still, I live on some of it.

That's why I tried to be proactive and put in place what some people would call reasonable precautions around the old homestead. You know, just in case the ape uprising happens sooner than most of us would like. Sadly, Jenn did not agree to any of them.

"I am not wasting my time doing any of these things," she replied, as she read the list that I taped onto the fridge.

"Well, then don't blame me when an ape is demanding you to bring him another banana daquiri," I said.

The worst part is we were already abiding by many of the precautions. For instance, we do not have any tire swings on our property. And we no longer allow any Tarzan-calling from the back deck – Jenn banned this the first year we moved

in. Also, we decided not to go big on banana farming even though climate change might soon make it a viable option.

If Jenn was not being so close-minded, she would have realized that we have already covered this stuff. The only other things I suggested that we do is learn ape sign language and perhaps buy a couple of gorilla suits just in case we have to "blend in" for a while.

But would she be reasonable? No sir. Not even after I conceded that we could abandon the nit-picking practice sessions.

So now when the apes finally do revolt and take the high ground – as was foretold by Hollywood and science – we literally have no viable options.

At best, I can take a lot of testosterone treatments and grow my body hair out a whole lot longer. But that's not really a good option for Jenn. We could not afford the shampoo and conditioner required.

So, I have resigned myself to simply defending this hill for as long as I can, possibly by getting really good at throwing feces.

The thing that frightens me most about all this is what Hollywood doesn't tell you. You see, in the scientific paper I read, it said that when apes go to war with neighbouring bands, the males charge up to each other, beat their chests to intimidate, and then grab their male opponent by his sexual organs – I suppose to get his undivided attention.

Frankly, I am not comfortable with this. Which is why, at the very least, when the ape revolt occurs, I will always be wearing a jock – perhaps two – and a good set of gloves.

But I will also immediately retreat to the lowest ground imaginable – say Death Valley – and make my stand there. Which will, I suspect, be the lowest point of my existence.



steve  
galea

## Loon Tales



## pic of the past

**T**he unveiling of the cenotaph in Haliburton occurred just after the First World War. The building next to it was William Lucas' house and is now home to Country Pick-in's. There's also so much evidence of the lumber industry, showing how much the town has changed over the years. /FILE

## The Principles of an Economic Charter of Rights

# Who's looking out for our small businesses?

**E**ARLIER THIS year, one of the co-founders of Home Depot – the world's largest home improvement retailer – publicly stated that if he were to start his company all over again in today's stifling business environment, he doubts whether it could have ever grown any bigger than around 15 stores versus the more than 2,300 stores the chain operates today.

He makes a valid point. With all the chains we put on small business – everything from needless regulations to countless permits and licenses and endless forms that need to be filled out – it's a wonder most businesses stay open.

Here's why every Canadian should be concerned: according to a Statistics Canada survey published last year, most jobs in Canada don't come from big corporations – they are created by small businesses, which employ nearly two-thirds of Canada's labour force.

In other words, when it comes to job creation, small business matters.

So, the question is: if small business is so critical to job creation and employment in Canada, why don't we pay more attention to this country's small business sector?

With so much of Canada's economic prosperity riding on the success of our small businesses, it's puzzling that politicians don't focus more time and effort on removing obstacles for small business so they can thrive and hire even more people.

It makes you wonder: who's looking out for small business?

Owning and operating a business comes with a lot of struggle and sacrifice. The financial rewards for starting a business should be large enough to compensate for the effort, otherwise who would trade in the security of a salaried job, give up countless weekends and holidays, and put their personal assets and savings on the line just to open a small business?

I've never forgotten what it's like to own and operate a small business. When I started my business, I worked 16 hours a day, seven days a week. I was out hustling every day trying to drum up new clients, working in the tool shop, and taking care of the books. And when all that was done, I swept the floor.

In the years that followed, my business grew in size and sales. So did many others just like mine. But we had far fewer regulations and restrictions impeding our growth, and taxes were lower. We need to re-create those conditions so small business can flourish.

An economic charter of rights would allow us to do that. The charter would include measures to eliminate many of the regulatory shackles holding small business back. And it would remove the income tax on any small business with 300 or fewer employees.

Removing the taxes and red tape hindering the success of Canada's small businesses would unleash the kind of economic growth our country hasn't seen in decades.

For that to happen, small businesses throughout the

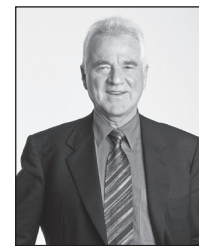
country must unite and band together to push for the principles contained in an economic charter of rights.

If any business association wants to learn more about the proposed Economic Charter, I'd be happy to speak at your event and tell you more about how the charter can help small business. Email me at [info@economiccharter.ca](mailto:info@economiccharter.ca).

It's time we gave small businesses the runway the need to really take off and soar.

### Author Bio

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame.  
[fstronachlpc@gmail.com](mailto:fstronachlpc@gmail.com)



frank  
stronach

## Principles



# Dimensions offers retreat program to veterans

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Many Canadian veterans struggle with treatment-resistant mental health conditions.

Dimensions in Algonquin Highlands, a wellness retreat centre, is offering a different approach to veterans with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression by combining psychotherapy and other mind-body practices to help relieve symptoms.

"A common phrase we hear among the participants is, 'I feel like myself for the first time in a long time,'" said Donald Currie, clinical director at Dimensions. "The person that arrives appears very different from the person that leaves."

Based on data collected in their clinical assessment software, Currie said it's not uncommon to see up to a 300 per cent improvement in participating veterans' mental health.

The program was approved by Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) six months ago.

Since then, 60 individuals have walked through their doors and become a community.

"Healing really happens with community. Often when people have mental health conditions, it can feel so isolating. It's amazing to see the relationships they build with each other within the program," Currie said.

With the consent of participating individuals, clinical data is being sent to Queen's University, who will then write a research report about the efficacy of the program.

"There aren't too many places that have done what we're doing, so it really does open the door when we're showing that this model does work," Currie said. "This research will also inform our clinical processes in how we can continue to grow and evolve the program. And we're learning so much from the veterans."

The 10-day retreat includes group and individual psychotherapy sessions in addition to practices like meditation, yoga, breathwork, massage therapy, Qigong, and nature therapy.

But the healing doesn't end when the group returns home.

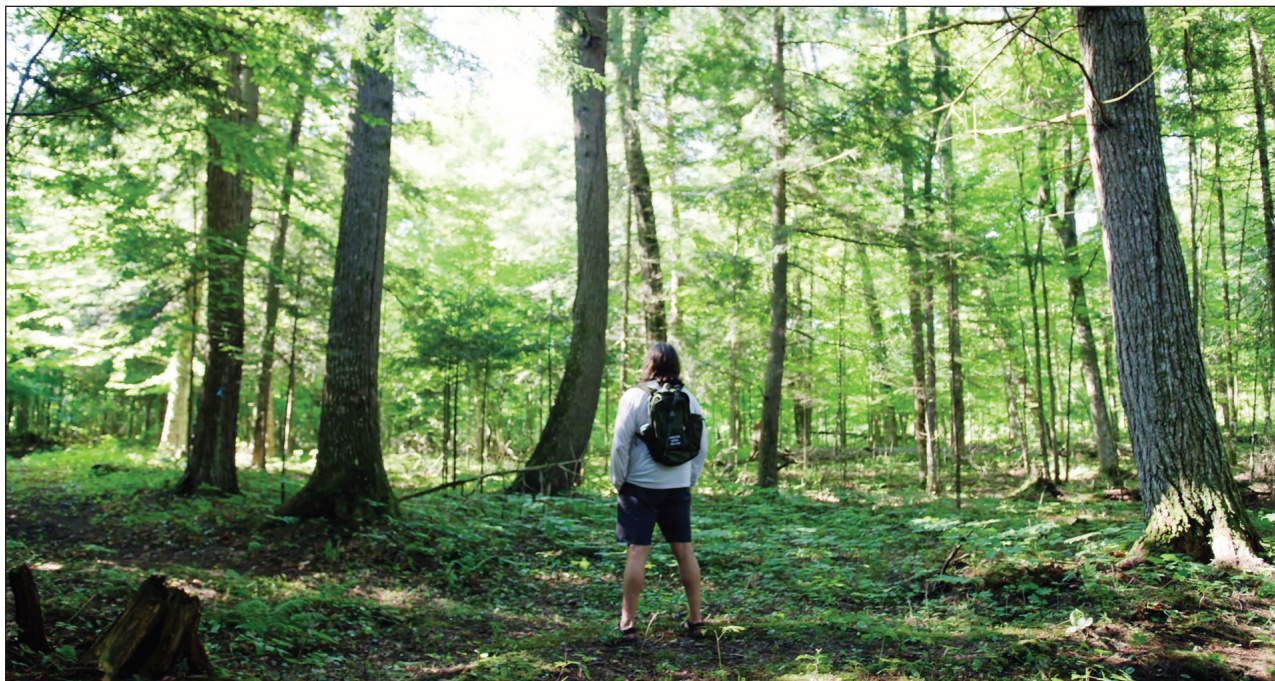
"They also receive 45 weeks of aftercare. Being able to keep that community is very important," Currie said.

The program is one of the first of its kind to focus solely on nervous system regulation through this combination of practices.

"When people experience PTSD, their system goes into fight, flight, and freeze. We have the vagus nerve, the largest cranial nerve, which is responsible for our rest and digest response," Currie explained. "All of these different mind-body practices are about processing trauma and activating the vagus nerve so that people experience greater levels of regulation and therefore see improvements in their mental and physical health."

Elevate began as an idea from Dimensions' chief medical officer DJ Cook.

Cook works in the health sciences division of Queen's University, has extensive experience working with vet-



Dimensions in Algonquin Highlands has currently provided 60 veterans with wellness retreats to help treat mental health conditions such as post traumatic stress disorder. /Submitted

erans, and saw an opportunity to help treat those struggling.

"We then worked on an application to Veterans Affairs Canada outlining our program and all of the different components," Currie said.

Preliminary results have been positive and improvements are seen in individuals facing severe PTSD.

"For a lot of veterans, they've been reporting that this is a lifesaver for them because a lot of them have suicidal ideation, and that can be really challenging to deal with. A lot of them have been through traditional treatment already that didn't help," Currie said.

Veterans are referred to the Elevate program through clinicians, mental health providers, VAC case managers, and veterans that self refer, and then successful candidates are sent to VAC for approval.

Currie said seeing high percentages of improvement in a short timeframe is a huge feat, and the program is always evolving to best meet needs.

"We have a clinical assessment software that we use, and what this allows us to do is to get a baseline for treatment so we can see the symptoms someone is coming in with, and then over time we can track the improvements in their overall mental and physical health," Currie said.

Currently, Dimensions is able to accommodate 12 veterans at a time and will soon have space for 16.

They have also begun retreats for veterans with specific experiences and needs.

"We just finished our first women's-only sexual trauma survivor retreat. We will be running those for males as well."



Dimensions uses psychotherapy and other mind-body practices to help relieve symptoms of mental health conditions in veterans at a 10-day retreat.

Visit [dimensionsretreats.com/dimensions-retreats-algonquin-elevate-veterans-only](https://dimensionsretreats.com/dimensions-retreats-algonquin-elevate-veterans-only) for more information on Elevate.



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# Why we remember

BRITNEY PAGLIUCA

Staff Reporter

In the town of Minden lies a cairn inscribed with the names of locals who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country during WWI, WWII and The Korean War. As I stood in front of it, I wondered, how many of us have ever taken the time to learn about the soldiers memorialized here? Do you recognize any names? What is their story and what does it mean to you?

As I pondered these things I was reminded of my Great Nona Maria.

When I was 13, I visited my family in Italy with my dad for the first time. There, my great grandmother, Nona Maria, lives in a small farmhouse on a hill surrounded by fields of olive trees. Hidden away at the bottom of the hill, we visited a small hut. I learned that this hut was built during the Second World War and served as a hideout for my great grandmother during the war. For months she endured the fear of the unknown and the fear that her husband may not return home. It was in this little hut, that my grandfather was born.

If it weren't for my great Nona Maria's bravery, perseverance and wit, I would not be here today.

We owe it to our relatives, to those who served and to ourselves to learn these stories.

I've spent this past week racking my brain over how I should convey the deep significance of Remembrance Day. As a history major, I've remained riddled with the complex question: why does history matter?

To me, understanding history is essential to our sense of identity. It contains the stories of how our country, families and local groups were formed, and how they evolved and developed over time. It brings us closer to answering difficult questions about the state of the world. History is more than a part of the past. It is a part of our story, of all the stories that make us who we are.

Remembrance Day is more than just a day to memorialize events from a seemingly disconnected past. It is about making connections between the past and present, and recognizing those who fought for the freedoms we have today.

These stories reveal to us the resiliency that runs through our veins and the strength that is a part of who we are.

## Remembering the soldiers of Haliburton County

In November 1915, during the First World War, the 109th Victoria and Haliburton Battalion was formed as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Volunteers from Victoria and Haliburton counties formed the battalion, which was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel J.J. H. Fee. The battalion, headquartered in Lindsay, had a strength of 1050 by summer 1916 when they left from Halifax on the S.S. Olympic.

Private Duncan Anderson, son of Annie and John H. Anderson, was born in Tory Hill on Oct. 17, 1892. He was



Private Hilliard Wood, son of Joseph and Louisa Wood, was born in Port Hope on Sept. 1, 1896. His family lived in Minden when he enlisted at the age of 20. He died in combat in November of 1918. /FILE

part of the Machine Gun Section of the 109th Battalion and died in combat on June 14th, 1918.

Private Hilliard Wood, son of Joseph and Louisa Wood, was born in Port Hope on Sept. 1, 1896. His family lived in Minden when he enlisted at the age of 20. He died in combat in November of 1918.

Private Henry Welch and Charlie Welch, brothers from Halls Lake, attested to the 109th Battalion in 1916. Charles Welch was killed in combat on Jan. 17th 1917 and his brother Henry on May 9th of the same year.

This information is courtesy of the *Minden Cultural Centre's Community Memories* collection, an extension of the *For King and Country: Soldiers of the Haliburton Highlands* 2009 exhibit.

It's a great place to start seeking information about family and community members that served their country.

The collection's introduction notes that "The exhibit was not about war or whether a war can be justified. It was about the individuals who put down their tools and said 'I'll go.'"

The collection can help us start to unpack the important questions about the soldiers of Haliburton County. But who were they beyond dates and photographs?

We can also start learning by asking our relatives and other community members. Perhaps it is our responsibility to learn and remember their stories. Perhaps this is how we can honour them.

## Words from one who serves

Ryan Hill, a 25-year-old from Haliburton, is currently serving in the Canadian military. On the significance of Nov. 11th, Hill said, "To me, Remembrance Day is about remembering those who have served before me and taking time to honour them. It is also a reminder of what it can take to preserve Canadian values and ethics."

I mentioned that this might also be a time to give recognition to those who continue to serve our country, though to Hill the day is less about himself and more about remembering those who served before him. "It can be a tough day for an individual who is serving, but even more so for the people who love and support them."

Currently deployed overseas, Hill will visit a graveyard on Nov. 11th and attend a service. On the other side of the world, we will do the same. While Hill takes this time to honour soldiers who served before him, those who love, and support Hill, will do the same and be thinking of him.

How can we ever repay the people who sacrificed so much for our freedom?

It seems to me that perhaps the only way to do this is by keeping their stories alive. To remind ourselves that these soldiers were not born soldiers. They were friends, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, mothers and fathers first. They walked the same streets that we do today.

To remember is to honour, to say that we have not forgotten your sacrifice, to say thank you.

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# Remembrance Day Services

## Haliburton Legion:

Saturday Nov. 11

10 a.m. Short pre-service is being held by the Legion's chaplain, Gary Swagerman, in the main hall at the legion

10:30 a.m. (post service) Sponsors to pick up their wreath if walking in the parade, otherwise wreath will be at Cenotaph

10:35 a.m. Parade from the Haliburton Legion to the Cenotaph

10:50 a.m. Cenotaph program

12 p.m. Light refreshments in the Legion's main hall

Any person or organization wishing to lay a Remembrance Day wreath, please contact the branch at 705-457-2571. Cost to sponsor a wreath is \$40 (no name) or \$50 (name on wreath). Note, this year we are offering sponsors the option to walk in the parade with their wreath, or your wreath will be at the Cenotaph.

## Wilberforce Legion

Service at the cenotaph on Saturday November 11, at 11:00 am adjacent to the Lloyd Watson Centre. Lunch to follow at the Wilberforce Legion Branch 624 by donation.

## Kinmount

Service at the cenotaph on Saturday November 11 at 11 a.m.

## Gooderham

Service at the cenotaph on Saturday November 11 at 2 p.m.

## Gelert

Service at the Gelert Cemetery Saturday November 11 at 12:30 p.m.

## Minden Legion:

The Service will commence at 10:45 on Saturday November 11 with the Act of Remembrance and reading of the County Honour Roll at 11:00 am, followed by the Wreath Laying ceremony and closing remarks.



## Taking time to remember

Haliburton Legion Branch 129 President Mike Waller and master of ceremonies Brian Hambly make the opening remarks of the Remembrance Day dinner on Nov. 4. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff



With over 160 in attendance, the first Remembrance Day dinner since before the pandemic was a success for the Haliburton Legion.



Haliburton's oldest veteran, Cec Bailey, right, just celebrated his 99th birthday. He was honoured at the dinner on Nov. 4 at the legion. Pictured with Val Jarvis, left.



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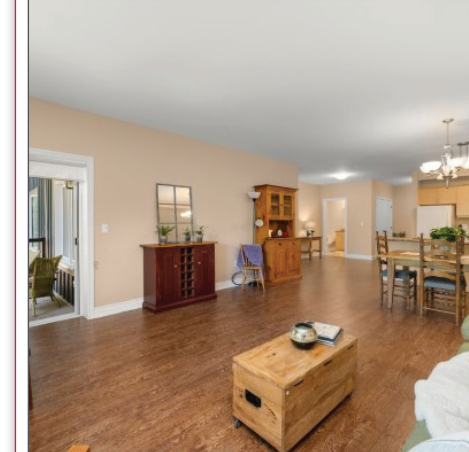


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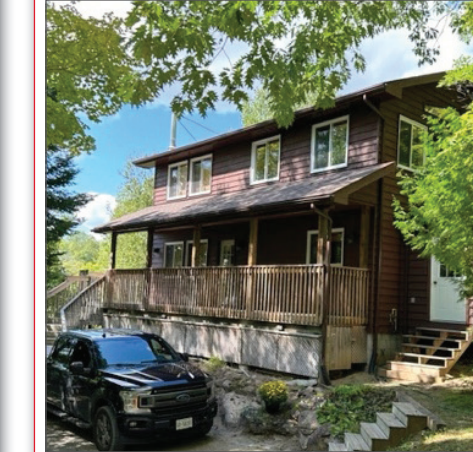


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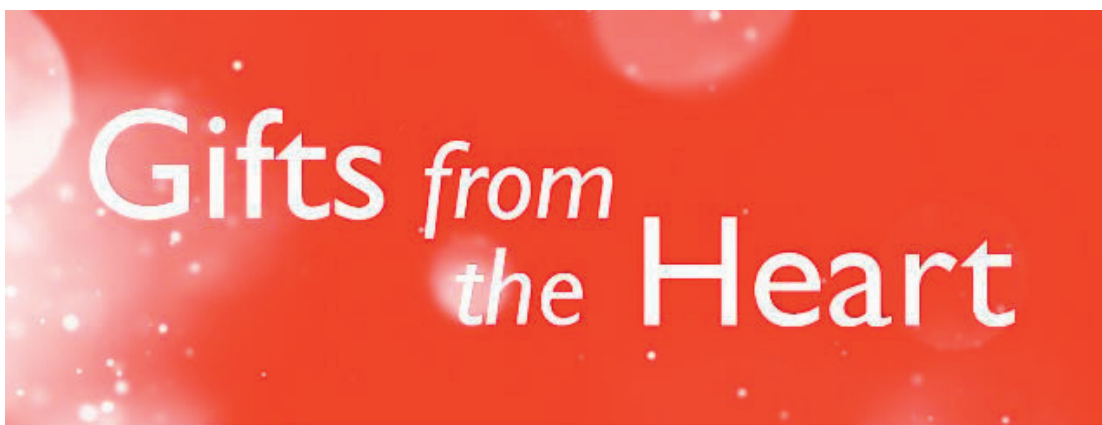
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- ☐ I wish to make a monthly donation on my credit card. Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_
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Huskies hustle for a win

The Huskies pulled off a big win against the St. Michaels Buzzers on Nov. 4 in Minden, with a final score of 5-2 Huskies. /TIM YANO special to the Echo



Lucas Stevenson #19 smiles for a photo after the game on Nov. 4.

The Huskies celebrate a goal by Charlie Fink, making the score 3-2 in the middle of the game.



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more to learn.

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### Warm welcome

All the studios were opened for the day, to allow visitors to meet and greet the faculty, artists, and former students and observe their work at HSA+D. /TIM YANO special to the *Echo*



A blacksmith works with iron during the HSA+D Open House on Saturday.



Erin Lynch welcomes visitors to the Haliburton School of Art + Design open house on Nov. 4. The event was an opportunity to showcase the facility and all the programs the school offers. /TIM YANO special to the *Echo*



### Municipality of Dysart et al

135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,  
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0  
Telephone: (705) 457-1740  
Email: [info@dysartet.al.ca](mailto:info@dysartet.al.ca)  
Website: [www.dysartet.al.ca](http://www.dysartet.al.ca)

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT TO ZONING BY-LAW 2005-120 TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

- **DATE:** Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
• **TIME:** 9:05 AM  
• **LOCATION:** COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE  
135 MAPLE AVENUE, HALIBURTON, ONTARIO AND IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT  
USING ZOOM

**APPLICATIONS:**

LANDS OF WARRINGTON  
FILE NO. D14-ZB-2023-008

- Purpose and Effect: The application will rezone the lands from Rural Type 1L (RU1L) zone to Rural Type 1L-XX (RU1L-XX) exception zone (severed lot) to recognize the minimum lot area, development area and setbacks of the subject property.
- Location: Kennaway Road, and legally described as Part Lots 13 to 15, Concession 5, Part Lots 14 and 15, Concession 3, Parts 20 and 22, Plan 19R-3618, Part 20, Plan 19R-5424, Parts 5 and 6, Plan 19R-6938. In the Geographic Township of Dudley, Municipality of Dysart et al.
- Proposed Zoning is a condition of a concurrent severance application (File No. H-050-22) under the Planning Act for the proposed severed and retained lots.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Municipal Clerk at [mbishop@dysartet.al.ca](mailto:mbishop@dysartet.al.ca).

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT APPEAL RIGHTS:** Contact the Planning and Land Information Department during regular office hours, Monday to Friday.

Dated at the Township of Dysart, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023.

Kris Orsan, CPT,  
Manager of Planning  
Planning and Land Information  
Municipality of Dysart et al  
135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0  
Phone: 705-457-1740 ext. 626  
E-mail: [korsan@dysartet.al.ca](mailto:korsan@dysartet.al.ca)



### Home Game



Saturday, November 11 @ 4 p.m.

### Upcoming Home Games



Nov. 18  
4 p.m.



Nov. 25  
4 p.m.



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1	2	3	4	5	6	7				8	9	10	11	12
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44						45						46		
47					48							49		
50			51						52	53	54			
55		56						57						
58								59						

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Happen again

8. Large flightless birds

13. A type of account

14. Beyond what is natural

15. Beloved comfort food

19. Rural delivery

20. Belonging to us

21. Typical

22. Pie \_ \_ mode

23. Returned material authorization (abbr.)

24. Not us

25. Discharge

26. Made empty

30. Fishing net

31. Fast-moving, harmless snake

32. Analyzed into its parts

33. In a way, chilled

34. Hindu queen

35. Circles around the sun

38. Used for emphasis

39. Reactive structures

40. Recommendations

44. Feel intense anger

45. Puke

46. Rural Northern Ireland community

47. Naturally occurring solid material

48. British watch brand

49. Toddler

50. Integrated circuit

51. Being revered

55. "Pets" you can grow

57. Continual

58. Puts together in time

59. Houses temporarily

2. Disinter

3. Musical performances

4. After B

5. Every body has one (abbr.)

6. Utilize

7. In a way, disproved

8. Fisherman's tool

9. Of she

10. Trauma center

11. Commercial flyer

12. Administered medicine to calm

16. Popular R&B performer

17. Regretted

18. Leg (slang)

22. "Night Train" author

25. More supernatural

27. Baltimore ballplayer

28. Shoe parts

29. Scores perfectly

30. More lucid

32. Trim by cutting

34. Disreputable people

35. Dramatic behaviors

36. Disorder

37. Private box in a theater

38. More dried-up

40. Raw

41. In operation

42. Pillager

43. Butterflies with brown wings

45. Disallow

48. Own up

51. Hungarian city

52. A way to condemn

53. Tax collector

54. Lease

- CLUES DOWN
1. Vital public document

Answers on page 21



**Off to the OFSAA races**

Three Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students competed at the OFSAA cross country championship on Saturday, Nov. 4 in Toronto at Centennial Park. Violet Humphries ran a personal best in the Junior girls 5k race, placing 70th out of 259 runners. Evan Backus (middle) placed 65 in the Junior boys division and Brechin Johnston placed 96th out of 268 runners. All the cross country runners trained well all season to prepare, and many of the athletes that didn't make OFSAA but still came out to early morning and after school practices to train and support the three representing Hal High. /Submitted

letters to the editor

Remember your research

To the Editor,

The October 17, 2023 edition of the *Echo* included an opinion piece from Environment Haliburton promoting a speaker engagement, educating interested parties about the “risks and challenges posed by Blue-Green Algae or Cyanobacterial blooms “helps participants avoid unnecessarily polluting our lakes and waterways.”

However, stating that “outbreaks of hazardous algal blooms (HAB) are on the rise across the region,” and that “a growing number of Haliburton County residents are coming face-to-face with the impact hazardous algal blooms can pose for the health of family members and pets” are unnecessarily alarming and fail to consider the facts.

Adding the story about their personal experience (Susan Hay is president of Environment Haliburton), “coming face-to-face with the impact hazardous algal blooms can pose...” reduces the article’s objectivity.

If outbreaks are on the rise, then where are the stories (plural) of other Haliburton County families’ experiences with the dreaded blooms?

According to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE), there have been four reported algae blooms in Haliburton in 2023 (to date) of which only one was confirmed, and it’s “toxicity levels were below method detection limits”.

One confirmed (non-toxic) algae bloom in 2023 to date does not represent a “rise in hazardous algal blooms across the region”, but why let facts get in the way of a good story.

Individuals/groups who submit alarmist articles to both Haliburton weekly newspapers regarding algae blooms (There has not been a toxic bloom here in recent memory, per the MOE), deteriorating lake water quality and poor quality shorelines (In six months, four shoreline by-law officers identified only eight by-law violations) and Climate Change (In our region of CO2-absorbing lakes and forests, the Dorset Air Quality Index measurement is consistently in the Low Range), should do their research.

Dave Love,  
Haliburton

‘Haliburton has it all’

community news

west guilford

Eleanor Cooper  
754-2278

Congratulations to David Zilstra on becoming 2023’s Highlander of the Year. We here at Guilford are so proud of his presence in our community and join in praise of his accomplishments over his years amongst us.

I am continually amazed at the sports offered in the town(s). Not only the hockey but football, volleyball, field hockey, basketball, and branching out Skyline Dance and individual sports when field comes along.

Winter and summer, opportunities open up for exercise, for social life as par-

ticipant or leadership. Haliburton has it all. I hark back to Alan’s life as cadet at the Legion and Andy as scout over high school years. Sir Sam’s provides time and space for winter skills and Minden’s Nesbitt arena gives skaters the chance they’re looking for to excel on the ice. The stage opens for music and theatre from school age to older. Canoe FM is yet another lively source.

Barrie Martin’s Your Outdoors is one of the many avenues which is available and of course Haliburton Library has information at hand always. Of course you can always count on church from less formal services from Bev Hicks Northland Faith to the well established St. Anthony of Padua or my beloved St. George’s Anglican with our master of music Bill Gliddon at the organ. Easy to see why David Zilstra would have no trouble finding much to do.





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Auto For Sale – 2006 Buick Allure 52,000 km, Certified, Excellent Condition, asking \$15,000 obo. Call 705-341-8866

## 300 FOR RENT

Large one-bedroom apartment available for rent in December 2023. Single, mature, non-smoking tenants preferred. Fully furnished with recent renovations. Includes water access and private entrance. 10 minute drive from Haliburton. \$1400 per month. Includes hydro heat and parking. Please call 705-457-0861

2 bedroom furnished house close to town. On Lake Kashagawigamog. Short term rental only January-June 2024. No smokers or pets please. Please call 450-370-9435

## 540 COMING EVENTS



## Christmas Craft Sale

Sunday, November 12  
11 am - 3 pm

Minden Community Centre  
55 Parkside St, Minden

Over 20 local artisans will be attending this sale. Lots of handcrafted items to choose from.



## 310 SHARED ACCOMMODATION

Available Now 5km from Minden, must be Mature, Reliable, Tidy Person. And No Pets. Must have own vehicle. Call 705-457-7913

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The Haliburton Echo, Minden Times & Bancroft This Week are seeking a

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Working remotely will be considered with the right candidate.

Please send resume to Publisher David Zilstra by November 24th to david.zilstra@haliburtonpress.com



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- Self-motivated with previous commissioned sales experience
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- Team player with recent managerial experience and the ability to train/mentor others
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- Knowledge and understanding of the community
- Must have personal transportation

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## 650 OBITUARIES



**Brenda Conboy (nee Peirce)**  
(Resident of Minden Hills, Ontario)

Peacefully at her residence on Thursday evening, November 2, 2023 in her 84th year. Beloved wife of the late Bruce Conboy. Loving mother of Cheryl (Larry Parsons) and Frank (Diana) all of Minden. Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Elizabeth, Allan and by her great-grandchildren Jordan & Aleksandar. Dear sister of Cam (Pam). Also lovingly remembered by her many nieces, nephews and friends. Brenda worked in the Automotive Industry and was a Crossing Guard for many years. She enjoyed the Haliburton Highlands and most of all time spent with her family.

**A Remembrance Gathering**

Friends and family are invited to call at **THE COMMUNITY ROOM** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Monday afternoon, November 13, 2023 to visit with the family from 1-3 p.m. Please bring your stories and memories of Brenda. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #636 Minden would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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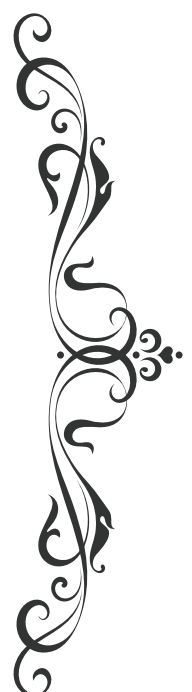
## 660 CARD OF THANKS

### THANK YOU

Words cannot describe our humble feelings for the amazing support we received after our daughter's passing. These are the supports who helped us deal with this loss PSW's and other healthcare providers at Highland Wood Long Term Care Haliburton for supporting Alyson for over 3 years. The nurses and other healthcare supports at the Haliburton Health Services emergency department. The medical team of 'Air Orange' who assured us that "they would take good care of her". Kingston General Hospital Intensive Care Unit teams who with exceptional care stayed by her side continuously for the 3 days she was there. The extensive number of CAT scans and X-rays that were administered was endless. Thank goodness for our wonderful financial support system. When we announced Alyson's favourite colour was pink one of the ICU nurses Beth insisted on coming to work in "pink" scrubs and "pink" socks. Thank you to all of our Highlands East and Toronto Families' support sending us cards texts phone calls visits food flowers and financial donations to Princess Margaret Cancer foundation and other charities of their choice helping us at this sad time. *With our Love and gratitude - Gail and Barry Gotter and Sherri and Jeff Klapow and family.*

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

S	R	E	L	S	O	F		S	C	N	A	S
R	E	V	E	R	O	F		S	A	I	H	C
A	T	I	L	I	B	A	R	E	N	E	A	C
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S	A	E	H	R				R	U	C	O	C



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**2023 Award Winners**

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<b>Business Achievement</b> Sylvia Holland	<b>Customer Service - Employee</b> Rebecca Neave
<b>Employer of the Year</b> Pefferlaw Creek Farms	<b>Customer Service - Business</b> Haliburton County Chiropractic & Rehabilitation
<b>Not-for-Profit</b> Abbey Retreat Centre	<b>Innovation &amp; Creativity</b> Kennis Lake Marina
<b>Tourism &amp; Hospitality</b> Boshkung Brewing Company	<b>Young Professional</b> Sarah Dollo
<b>Entrepreneur of the Year</b> Jenn Emmerson	<b>New Business</b> Sweat Social Health & Fitness
<b>Business Woman of the Year</b> Brandi Hewson	<b>Highlander of the Year</b> David Zilstra

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■ **H1N1:** First death in region

■ **OLYMPICS:** Local man makes torches

■ **FINAL FAREWELL:** Goodbye, Martha

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■ **BOOSTALK**

# Teen rapper an online sensation

**KATRINA CHVEDUKAS**

*Co-Op Student*

Whether it is music, acting, dancing or talent in sports, it is hard to get noticed in the big leagues when one grows up in a small rural town. But in the last month, a local high school student, Matt McDermott, better known as the rapper "Boostalk," was given the chance to drink from the cup of fame.

He began rapping at the age of 14, and has made multiple videos of himself over the last few years, posting them on Facebook for friends and family to see.

"I just rap for fun. It was never planned to be some sort of dream of mine. But now it could be," Matt said.

Bored one day, Matt decided to put together a collaboration of random lyrics and make it into a music video, complete with an editing budget of \$50. Forty-eight hours after posting the music video of him, "We Gon Rock," on the website YouTube he received 300,000-plus hits and a chance to sign a contract with Urban Smoke Records (USR). He was found on television four days after the release of the video on an episode of *Attack of The Show*, Around

See **It was** page 35



## Martin Hofland's amazing collection

Haliburtonian survived Nazi occupation in Holland and moved to his favourite country in the 1960s. Now he wants to establish a navy and war museum in town. Read Hofland's story on page 3.  
Photo by Jenn Watt.

■ **MOON SHADOWS**

# Haliburton winery wins gold in world contest

**TERRANCE GAVAN**

*Special to the Echo*

Moon Shadows Estates Winery may be the best-kept secret in the Haliburton Highlands.

But, don't expect that to last.

Excellence sparkles – especially in the niche Ontario wine market.

And Moon Shadows Estates is maturing like vintage Pinot Noir. Slowly, serenely, with patient pace and enduring grace.

Wine – as any vintner knows – takes its own time. It prefers the dark recessed cavities of a cool cellar, but every once in a while it gets a chance to doff its cork and shimmer.

Last week Moon Shadows Estates took a twirl in the spotlight when its popular Black Currant table wine captured the gold medal in the prestigious InterVin International Wine Awards. The wine won in the fruit/dessert wine category. (Moon Shadows also sells dessert wines, but this particular Black Currant vintage is a table wine.)

Moon Shadows Estates Winery owners Eric and Carol Thomp-

See **International** page 34

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3 X  
BATH

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BED

3 X  
BATH

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HALBIEM CRESCENT  
\$1,099,000

3 X  
BED

4 X  
BATH

MLS# 40470892

HALIBURTON LAKE  
\$999,000

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ACRES

SOUTHWEST  
EXPOSURE

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\$795,000

1210  
SQ.FT

149.97 FT.  
FRONTAGE

MLS# 40438545

MIRROR LAKE  
\$749,500

SOUTHWEST  
EXPOSURE

197.4 FT.  
FRONTAGE

MLS# 40474802

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\$719,000

RIVERFRONT  
LAKE ACCESS

3 X  
BED

MLS# 40500660

HWY 35  
\$549,000

3 X  
BED

2.7  
ACRES

MLS# 40463263

PORTAGE LAKE  
\$475,000

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ACRES

WESTERN  
EXPOSURE

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ACRES

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2 X  
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